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SC-04893/58
Tab GEARLIER REQUEST FOR PERIPHERAL PHOTOGRAPHY

1. The ARC on 23 April 1958 (ARC-M-80 paragraphs 3 and 4, TCS-3064-58) set forth its request for oblique photography on the Soviet periphery. This followed upon a statement of its recommendations for ELINT peripheral coverage on 15 March 1958 (ARC-M-78, TCS-2880-58). Recognizing that there might be a competition between these two requests, the ARC stated:

"Insofar as there is any competition for limited operational resources in achieving coverage of the requirements indicated between such coverage and that recommended for peripheral ELINT missions (see ARC-M-78, TCS-2880-58, paragraphs 8 and 9), the ARC was of the view that peripheral ELINT coverage [redacted] should take precedence, and a now unknown event of major significance in the ELINT field, such as felled activity or a missile launching, might take precedence. (On the occasion of such an event, the ARC would submit timely recommendation.)"

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2. Since that time, on 14 May 1958 (ARC-M-81, TCS-3144-58), the ARC confirmed the views referred to and stated that its views on peripheral photographic missions are still valid though the offshore distance will extend twenty miles as opposed to the minimum distance offshore of three miles hitherto noted. It also confirmed its view as stated in the quotation (immediate paragraph above) in the event there is competition for limited operational resources.

3. Pursuant to Air Force views expressed at an ARC meeting on 3 June 1958 (ARC-M-83, TCS-3293-58), the ARC requested HTAUTOMAT to prepare a study which would indicate more precisely what might be expected from oblique photography at twenty miles offshore noting areas subject to photo interpretation and areas where only recognition of cultural objects was feasible. On the occasion of the examination of this study on 12 June 1958 (ARC-M-84, TCS-3313-58) and consultation with Operations DPS/DCI, no objections were raised to the proposed peripheral or ELINT coverage. At that time the Air Force submitted a paper listing requirements of the Air Force for peripheral photographic coverage in addition to those previously submitted by the Army and the Navy.

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